



Promoting Lebanese entrepreneurship and investment

Context

Lebanon's small enterprises face different types of difficulties and operate in an unstable environment characterized by many factors, for instance, regional political fluctuations and local financial, legal, infrastructural, educational and cultural impediments.

Most Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) are the heart of any country; they empower its economy, heighten its competitive position and alleviate its employment problems and in general constitute the majority of companies.

After the civil war, in Lebanon lots of families lost their businesses, some employees lost their jobs, some national companies closed and some international organizations moved to other countries.

Strategy

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) launched in Lebanon on the 26th of May 2010 the Enterprise Development & Investment Promotion Program (EDIP) in partnership with the Arab Regional Center for Entrepreneurship & Investment promotion Training (ARCEIT) and the Federation of the Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture in Lebanon (FCCIAL).

Current Status

- The EDIP has been funded by an Italian development NGO. It has been implemented successfully in 37 countries and been brought to Lebanon to help in the economic development through job creation. EDIP has been implemented in all Lebanese regions through 4 focal points in the 4 Lebanese chambers North, Bekaa, South, Beirut & Mount Lebanon, born in mind that depending on the targeted area the awareness program had to be altered.

- For EDIP to be effective and efficient, joint efforts have been made with all those who can provide services to entrepreneurs, namely administrative, technical and financial support of the following counterparts: ministries, municipalities, universities, technical colleges, national and international NGOs and others.

Impact / Outlook

UNIDO EDIP since launching:

- Provided technical support to 250 businesses;
- Provided 6 training of the trainers to 200 participants from public & private sector (ministries, municipalities, universities, technical colleges, national and international NGOs and others);
- Conducted numerous awareness sessions in job creation and business development;
- Co-organized a considerable number of related events, notably in **2011, the Young Entrepreneurs & Business Persons Forum 2011**;
- Participated in multiple related activities such as trainings, conferences and exhibitions;
- Organised a Lebanese Entrepreneurs' delegation that participated in Young Entrepreneurs Forum in Tunis.